

OCT 28 2004

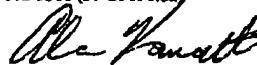
Attorney Docket No. 15866/141

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re App : Kevin B. Weiss : Examiner Douglas C. Butler
Serial No. : 10/714,279 : Art Unit 3683
Filed : November 14, 2003 : Confirmation No. 2037
For : MOTION CONTROL APPARATUS WITH BACKLASH REDUCTION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I CERTIFY THAT THIS PAPER IS BEING SENT VIA
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NO.: 703-872-9306 (37 CFR 1.8a)

**RESPONSE**

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office communication mailed on August 31, 2004, the undersigned wishes to make the following comments.

REMARKS

Examiner Butler has rejected the originally filed claims 1-3, 8, 12-17, 19 and 20 of the present application. For the reasons which follow, applicant respectfully traverses this rejection of the Examiner. The applicant does, however, wish to extend appreciation to Examiner Butler for the quite detailed review of the claims of the present invention leading to the finding of patentable subject matter of the originally filed claims of the present application and an indication of the allowability of claims 4 and 5 if rewritten.

The undersigned wishes to extend appreciation to Examiner Butler of the United States Patent and Trademark Office for the courtesies extended in a personal interview of October 18, 2004. The substance of that personal interview is hereby confirmed and expanded upon.

Wu discloses a damper/positioning structure where a damping force is produced when the barrel 3 is moved rightward and is "disappeared" when moving leftwards. Thus, as barrel 3 is never held in Wu, it is respectfully submitted that Wu does not suggest the recited friction collar.